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## Memoir of his Majesty, George the Fourth.

BEFORE we enter upon our memoir of his present majesty, it will be necessary to trace the origin of the house of Brunswick, the Lüneburg branch of which has now filled the British throne for more than a century. The German genealogists suppose it to have descended through females from the Saxon family, so renowned in the early periods of our history, and up to which most of the royal families of Europe proudly ascribe their pedigrees. Most authors, however, concur in deriving the house of Brunswick from Albert II. of Este; but from what ancestors he himself came, they have not been able to decide: some contending that he descended from Charlemagne; others from Hugh, king of Italy; and some again, deriving his origin from Hugh, Marquis of Este, great-grandson of Azo I., who it is said was descended from Caius Aëtius, a relative of the Emperor Augustus. This Caius Aëtius being a Roman of note, is supposed to have resided at *Ateste*, or *Este*; from which the family name is, in consequence, derived. Our learned historian, Gibbon, has drawn from Ecard's *Origines Guelphæ*, a description of the antiquities of the house of Brunswick, published in his posthumous works, but which unhappily he did not live to finish. From that source we extract the following passage, in which the writer concisely traces the genealogy of the illustrious house.

"An English subject," says Gibbon, "may be prompted by a just and liberal curiosity to investigate the origin and history of the house of Brunswick; which, after an alliance with the daughters of our kings, has been called by the voice of a free people to the legal inheritance of the crown. From George I., and his father, the elector of Hanover, we ascend in a clear and regular series, to the first Duke of Brunswick and Lüneburg, who received his investiture from Frederic II., about the middle of the thirteenth century. If these ample possessions had been the gift of the emperor to some adventurous soldier, to some faithful client, we might be content with the antiquity and lustre of a noble race, which had been enrolled nearly six hundred years among the princes of Germany. But our ideas are raised, and our prospect is opened, by the

discovery that the first Duke of Brunswick was rather degraded than adorned by his new title, since it imposed the duties of feudal service on the free and patrimonial estate, which alone had been saved in the shipwreck of the more splendid fortunes of his house. His ancestors had been invested with the powerful Duchies of Bavaria and Saxony, which extended far beyond their limits in modern geography; from the Baltic sea, to the confines of Rome, they were obeyed, or respected, or feared; and in the quarrels of the Guelphs and the Cibellines, the former appellation was derived from the name of their progenitors in the female line. But the genuine masculine descent of the Princes of Brunswick, must be explored beyond the Alps; the venerable tree which has since overshadowed Germany and Britain, was planted in the Italian soil.—As far as our sight can reach, we discern the first founders of the race in the Marquesses of Este, of Liguria, and perhaps of Tuscany. In the eleventh century, the primitive stem was divided into two branches; the elder migrated to the banks of the Danube and the Elbe; the younger more humbly adhered to the neighbourhood of the Adriatic. The Dukes of Brunswick and the Kings of Great Britain, are the descendants of the first; the Dukes of Ferrara and Modena, were the offsprings of the second."

Omitting a particular narration of the events that led to the connexion of the house of Brunswick with the royal family of England, and the act of settlement by which the succession was settled, as well-known circumstances, we shall at once, as a conclusion to this part of our subject, give the following account of the British descent of George III., in which it is shown that the king of England is heir in direct succession (the Catholic line of course excluded) to the British, Cambro-British, English, and Scottish kings.

1. Cadwaldr, last king of the Britons.
2. Idwal Iwrch, his son.
3. Rhodri Molwrog, son of Idwal.
4. Cynan Tyndethwy, son of Rhodri.
5. Epyllt, daughter and heiress of Cynan, married to Merfyn Frych.
6. Rhodri Mawr, their son.
7. Anarawd, son of Rhodri.
8. Idwal Foel, son of Anarawd.

9. Meurig, son of Idwal.
10. Iago, son of Meurig.
12. Cynan, son of Iago.
13. Gruffydd, son of Cynan.
14. Owain Guynedd, son of Gruffydd.
15. Iorwerth, Owain's son.
16. Slewelyn, son of Iorwerth.
17. Dafydd, son of Slewelyn.

*All the above were Princes of Wales.*

18. Guladys, Ddu, sister and heiress of Dafydd, married to Ralph Mortimer.
19. Roger, their son.
20. Edmund Mortimer, son of Roger.
21. Roger, son of Edmund, first earl of Marche.
22. Edmund, son of Roger, married Philippa, daughter and heiress of Lionel, duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III.
23. Roger, their son.
24. Anne, daughter and heiress of Roger, married to Richard of Conisburg, earl of Cambridge.
25. Richard, duke of York, their son.
26. Edward IV. eldest son of Richard.
27. Elizabeth, Edward's eldest sister, married to Henry VII.
28. Margaret, their eldest daughter, married to James IV. of Scotland.
29. James V. of Scotland, their son.
30. Mary queen of Scots, daughter of James.
31. James I. of England, son of Mary, by lord Darnley.
32. Elizabeth, daughter of James, married to Frederic, elector of Palatine.
33. Sophia, their daughter, married to Ernest Augustus, elector of Hanover.
34. George I. their son.
35. George II. his son.
36. Frederic prince of Wales, son of George II. and father of George III. his late majesty.\*

On the 25th of August, 1761, the princess Charlotte of Mecklinburgh Strelitz, embarked with her attendants at Cuxhaven, on board the royal yacht, under the salute of a squadron destined to convey her to England, as the affianced bride of his majesty George III. On the 28th she sailed, reached Harwich on the 6th, and arrived in town on the 8th of September. Her highness alighted at the garden gate of St. James's palace, and was handed out of the coach by his majesty's brother, the duke of York. Upon her entrance into the garden, she sunk on her knee to the king, who in a most affectionate manner raised her up, saluted her, and then led her with his

right hand into the palace, where she dined with his majesty, the princess dowager, and the princess Augusta. In the evening, at nine o'clock, the marriage was celebrated with great splendour and solemnity.

It is a remarkable circumstance, that an heir apparent to the British throne, was born on the forty-eighth anniversary of the accession of the house of Brunswick. On the 12th of August, 1762, at twenty-four minutes after seven, his present majesty George the Fourth was born. The archbishop of Canterbury was in the room, and certain great officers of state in the room adjoining, with the door open into the queen's apartment. The person who waited on the king with the news, received a bank note of the value of £500.

Immediately on the announcement of this event, and whilst the cannon were firing in the park, a long train of wagons was passing down St. James's-street, containing the treasure of the *Hermione* frigate, one of the richest captures recorded in the annals of the British navy. His majesty and the nobility were invited to the windows over the gateway of the palace, to view the cheering procession, and joined in the acclamations of the populace.

For the gratification of the public, it was announced, before the young prince was twelve days old, that his royal highness was to be seen at St. James's, from one until three o'clock, on drawing-room days. The crowd of ladies whom this offer tempted to flock to court to see the royal infant, and taste her majesty's candle and cake, soon became immense; the daily expense for cake alone, was estimated at £40. and the consumption of wine was more than could have been conceived. All persons of fashion were admitted to see the prince, under the following restrictions, viz. that in passing through the apartment, they stepped with the greatest caution, and did not offer to touch his royal highness. For the greater security in this respect, a part of the apartment was latticed off in the Chinese manner, to prevent curious persons from approaching too close.

On the 17th of August, his royal highness was created prince of Wales by letters patent. The mode of conferring this dignity is by investiture with a cap, coronet, gold verge, and ring, and by issue of letters patent under the great seal. His present majesty is the twentieth prince of the royal family of England that has borne the title. The last prince of Wales, except his present majesty, who was born during the reign of

\* York's Royal Tribes.

his father, was prince Charles, afterwards Charles II.

On the joyous occasion of the birth of an heir-apparent, congratulatory addresses flowed in on their majesties from all parts of the kingdom. A most appropriate and excellent address from the Quakers was presented to his majesty on the 1st of October, and read by Dr. Fothergill, as follows:—

*"To George the Third, king of Great Britain, and the dominions thereunto belonging.*

*"The humble address of his Protestant subjects, the people called Quakers.*

"May it please the king,

"The satisfaction we feel in every event that adds to the happiness of our sovereign, prompts us to request admittance to the throne, on the present interesting occasion.

"The birth of a prince, the safety of the queen, and thy own domestic felicity increased, call for our thankfulness to the Supreme Dispenser of every blessing; and to the king our dutiful and unfeigned congratulations.

"In the prince of Wales we behold another pledge of the security of those inestimable privileges, which we have enjoyed under the monarchs of thy illustrious house—kings, distinguished by their justice, their clemency, and regard to the prosperity of their people; a happy presage, that under their descendants, our civil and religious liberties will devolve, in their full extent, to succeeding generations.

"Long may the Divine Providence preserve a life of so great importance to his royal parents, to these kingdoms, and to posterity; that formed to piety and virtue, he may live beloved of God and man, and fill at length the British throne with a lustre not inferior to his predecessors."

*The King's Answer.*

"I take very kindly this fresh instance of your duty and affection, and your congratulations on an event so interesting to me and my family. You may always rely on my protection."

In 1765, the young prince was elected a knight companion of the Order of the Garter, and installed at Windsor, July 25, 1771.

The education of the royal offspring was conducted on the principle of utility as well as elegance, of which the following instance is related by Mr. Arthur Young, as having occurred when the Prince of Wales was scarcely more than twelve years of age.

A spot of ground in the garden at Kew was dug by his Royal Highness the Prince

of Wales, and by his brother, the Duke of York, who sowed it with wheat, attended the growth of their little crop, weeded, reaped, and harvested it, solely by themselves. They threshed out the corn, and separated it from the chaff; and at this period of their labour were brought to reflect, from their own experience, on the various labours and attention of the husbandman and farmer. The princes not only raised their own crop, but they also ground it, and having parted the bran from the meal, attended to the whole process of making it into bread, which it may well be imagined was eaten with no slight relish. The king and queen partook of the philosophical repast, and beheld with pleasure the very amusements of their children rendered the source of useful knowledge.

Dr. Markham, the late archbishop of York, was his majesty's preceptor. The sub-preceptor was Dr. Cyril Jackson, who was offered the primacy of Ireland, but refused it. Mrs. Markham and Jackson continued preceptors to the prince till the year 1796, when Dr. Hurd and Mr. Arnold succeeded; both celebrated tutors at Cambridge. The system of education adopted by the tutors of the prince was certainly admirably calculated to render him an excellent scholar and an accomplished gentleman; but so severe and rigid was the system, and so strictly was the prince prohibited from any intercourse with society, that when emancipated it is not a matter of surprise with us that, with the ardour of youth, he plunged into the felicities of life, and committed foibles, for which his inexperience may be charitably received as an apology. Long previous to his royal highness's being of age, he had made great proficiency in his studies, and his personal attractions and accomplishments had very early gained him warm friends and admirers. About this time an incident of the most romantic character occurred, and which, in justice to the correct detail of our memoir, we cannot pass by. Many of our readers have doubtless heard and read of the lovely, beautiful, and, in many respects, highly talented Mrs. Mary Robinson. This lady was the wife of a careless, neglectful, and profligate young man, who left her with her fascinating mental and personal attractions exposed to the gaze of libertine rank and fashion. Her husband had separated himself from her, and, on an introduction to Garrick and Sheridan, was encouraged to adopt the stage as a profession. She accordingly came out at Drury-lane Theatre in the character of *Juliet*, in which she was eminently successful, and obtained an engagement, at

a high salary, to enact the heroines in tragedy and comedy. We shall now request the fair lady to tell us, in her own way, the circumstances that led to the friendship between her and the young prince.

"The play of *The Winter's Tale* was this season commanded by their majesties. I never had performed before the royal family; and the first character in which I was destined to appear, was that of *Perdita*. I had frequently played the part, both with the *Hermione* of Mrs. Hartley and of Miss Farren; but I felt a strange degree of alarm when I found my name announced to perform it before the royal family.

"In the green-room I was rallied on the occasion; and Mr. Smith, whose gentlemanly manners and enlightened conversation rendered him an ornament to the profession, who performed the part of *Leontes*, laughingly exclaimed, 'By Jove, Mrs. Robinson, you will make a conquest of the prince; for to-night you look handsomer than ever.' I smiled at the unmerited compliment, and little foresaw the vast variety of events that would arise from that night's exhibition!

"As I stood in the wing opposite the prince's box, waiting to go on the stage, Mr. Ford, the manager's son, and now a respectable defender of the laws, presented a friend who accompanied him; this friend was Lord Viscount Malden, now Earl of Essex.

"We entered into conversation during a few minutes, the Prince of Wales all the time observing us, and frequently speaking to Colonel (now General) Lake, and to the Honourable Mr. Legge, brother to Lord Lewisham, who was in waiting on his royal highness. I hurried through the first scene, not without much embarrassment, owing to the fixed attention with which the Prince of Wales honoured me. Indeed, some flattering remarks which were made by his royal highness met my ear as I stood near his box, and I was overwhelmed with confusion.

"The prince's particular attention was observed by every one, and I was again rallied at the end of the play. On the last curtesy, the royal family condescendingly returned a bow to the performers; but just as the curtain was falling, my eyes met those of the Prince of Wales; and with a look that I *never shall forget*, he gently inclined his head a second time; I felt the compliment, and blushed my gratitude.

"During the entertainment Lord Malden never ceased conversing with me: he was young, pleasing, and perfectly accom-

plished. He remarked the particular applause which the prince had bestowed on my performance; said a thousand civil things; and detained me in conversation till the evening's performance was concluded.

"I was now going to my chair, which waited, when I met the royal family crossing the stage. I was again honoured with a very marked and low bow from the Prince of Wales.—On my return home, I had a party to supper; and the whole conversation centred in encomiums on the person, graces, and amiable manners of the illustrious heir apparent.

"Within two or three days of this time, Lord Malden made me a morning visit: Mr. Robinson was not at home, and I received him rather awkwardly. But his lordship's embarrassment far exceeded mine: he attempted to speak—paused, hesitated, apologized; I knew not why. He hoped I would pardon him; that I would not mention something he had to communicate; that I would consider the peculiar delicacy of his situation, and then act as I thought proper.—I could not comprehend his meaning, and therefore requested that he would be explicit.

"After some moments of evident rumination, he tremblingly drew a small letter from his pocket. I took it, and knew not what to say. It was addressed to *Perdita*. I smiled, I believe rather sarcastically, and opened the  *billet* . It contained only a few words, but those expressive of more than common civility: they were signed *Florizel*."

"Well, my lord, and what does this mean?" said I, half angrily.

"Can you not guess the writer?" said Lord Malden.

"Perhaps yourself, my lord," cried I, gravely.

"Upon my honour, no," said the viscount. "I should not have dared so to address you on so short an acquaintance."

"I pressed him to tell me from whom the letter came.—He again hesitated; he seemed confused, and sorry that he had undertaken to deliver it. 'I hope that I shall not forfeit your good opinion,' said he, 'but'—"

"But what, my lord?"

"I could not refuse,—for the letter is from the Prince of Wales."

"I was astonished; I confess that I was agitated; but I was also somewhat sceptical as to the truth of Lord Malden's assertion. I returned a formal and a doubtful answer; and his lordship shortly after took his leave.

\* Those who have read 'The Winter's Tale,' will know the significance of these adopted names.

"A thousand times did I read this short but expressive letter; still I did not implicitly believe that it was written by the prince; I rather considered it as an experiment made by Lord Malden, either on my vanity or propriety of conduct. On the next evening the viscount repeated his visit: we had a card-party of six or seven, and the Prince of Wales was again the subject of unbounded panegyric. Lord Malden spoke of his royal highness's manners as the most polished and fascinating; of his temper as the most engaging; and of his mind, the most replete with every amiable sentiment. I heard these praises, and my heart beat with conscious pride, while memory turned to the partial but delicately respectful letter which I had received on the preceding morning."

For some months a confidential correspondence was carried on between the celebrated parties, through the agency of Lord Malden, and Mrs. Robinson, among other tokens of inviolable regard, received the prince's portrait in miniature, painted by the late Mr. Meyer. Within the case, containing the picture, was a small heart cut in paper; on one side was written, *Je ne change qu'en mourant*; on the other, *Unalterable to my Perdita through life*.

An interview at length was arranged between the fair *Perdita* and the admiring *Florisel*. The account, written by Mrs. Robinson, in a letter to a friend, of the lovers' meeting, is couched in eloquent and glowing language, and with much apparent ingenuousness. We shall now copy it, for it presents an interesting portrait of the urbane and polished manners of his royal highness at that period of his life.

"At length, after many alternations of feeling, an interview with her royal lover was consented to by Mrs. Robinson, and proposed, by the management of Lord Malden, to take place at his lordship's residence in Dean-street, May-fair. But the restricted situation of the prince, controlled by a rigid tutor, rendered this project of difficult execution. A visit to Buckingham-house was then mentioned; to which Mrs. Robinson positively objected, as a rash attempt, abounding in peril to her august admirer. Lord Malden being again consulted, it was determined that the prince should meet Mrs. Robinson for a few moments at Kew, on the banks of the Thames, opposite to the old palace, then the summer residence of the elder prince. For an account of this incident, an extract from a letter of Mrs. Robinson, written some years afterwards to a valued and since deceased friend, who

during the period of these events resided in America, may not be unacceptable to the reader. The date of this letter is in 1783.

"At length an evening was fixed for this long dreaded interview. Lord Malden and myself dined at the inn on the island between Kew and Brentford. We waited the signal for crossing the river in a boat which had been engaged for the purpose. Heaven can witness how many conflicts my agitated heart endured at this most important moment! I admired the prince; I felt grateful for his affection. He was the most engaging of created beings. I had corresponded with him during many months, and his eloquent letters, the exquisite sensibility which breathed through every line, his ardent professions of adoration, had combined to shake my feeble resolution. The handkerchief was waved on the opposite shore; but the signal was, by the dusk of the evening, rendered almost imperceptible. Lord Malden took my hand, I stepped into the boat, and in a few minutes we landed before the iron gates of old Kew palace. The interview was but of a moment. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of York (then bishop of Osnaburg) were walking down the avenue. They hastened to meet us. A few words, and those scarcely articulate, were uttered by the prince, when a noise of the people approaching from the palace startled us. The moon was now rising; and the idea of being overheard, or of his royal highness being seen out at so unusual an hour terrified the whole group. After a few more words of the most affectionate nature uttered by the prince, we parted, and Lord Malden and myself returned to the island. The prince never quitted the avenue, nor the presence of the Duke of York, during the whole of this short meeting. Alas! my friend, if my mind was before influenced by esteem, it was now awakened to the most enthusiastic admiration. The rank of the prince no longer chilled into awe that being, who now considered him as the lover and the friend. The graces of his person, the irresistible sweetness of his smile, the tenderness of his melodious yet manly voice, will be remembered by me till every vision of this changing scene shall be forgotten.

"Many and frequent were the interviews which afterwards took place at this romantic spot; our walks sometimes continued till past midnight, the Duke of York and Lord Malden were always of the party, our conversation was composed of general topics. The prince had from his infancy been wholly secluded, and

naturally took much pleasure in conversing about the busy world, its manners and pursuits, characters, and scenery. Nothing could be more delightful or more rational than our midnight perambulations. I always wore a dark-coloured habit; the rest of our party generally wrapped themselves in great coats to disguise them, excepting the Duke of York, who almost universally alarmed us by the display of a *buff* coat, the most conspicuous colour he could have selected for an adventure of this nature. The polished and fascinating ingenuousness of his royal highness's manners contributed not a little to enliven our promenades. He sung with exquisite taste; and the tones of his voice breaking on the silence of the night, have often appeared to my entranced senses like more than mortal melody. Often have I lamented the distance which destiny had placed between us: how would my soul have idolized such a husband! Alas! how often, in the ardent enthusiasm of my soul, have I formed the wish that that being were *mine alone!* to whom partial millions were to look up for protection."

This state of enjoyment, however, was of very short duration; for a letter was received from the Prince to the effect that they—*must meet no more!* Mrs. Robinson did not censure the Prince; for she says, "I did then, and ever shall, consider his mind as nobly and honourably organized; nor could I teach myself to believe that a heart, the seat of so many virtues, could possibly become inhuman and unjust." Mrs. Robinson afterwards visited the continent, where she was attacked with a most malignant fever, which ultimately deprived her of the use of all her limbs. On her return to London she devoted herself to literary pursuits, and she frequently was honoured with a call from the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York. A gradual decline at length terminated all her earthly sufferings; when on her deathbed she requested that a lock of her hair might be presented to his royal highness; and this mark of her regard, it is said, was received by the Prince with strong feelings of solicitude and care.

On August 12, 1783, his royal highness attained his majority, and that event was celebrated with great joy. An income of 50,000*l.* a year, exclusive of the revenues of the duchy of Cornwall, which amounted to 13,000*l.* a year, was granted by Parliament.

At the opening of parliament, 11th of November, 1783, his royal highness was introduced into the House of Peers, supported by his uncle the Duke of Cumber-

land, and the Dukes of Richmond and Portland; and took the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, and made and subscribed the declaration; and also took and subscribed the oath of abjuration.

The first time his royal highness ever spoke in parliament was upon the motion of the Marquess of Abercorn, for an amendment to the address of the Commons upon his majesty's proclamation for preventing seditious meetings and writings; and in a manly, eloquent, and, we may add, persuasive manner, delivered his sentiments. He said, that on a question of such magnitude he should be deficient in his duty as a member of parliament, unmindful of the respect he owed to the constitution, and inattentive to the welfare, the peace, and the happiness of the people, if he did not state to the world what was his opinion on the present question. He was educated in the principles, and he should ever preserve them, of a reverence for the constitutional liberties of the people; and, as on those constitutional principles the happiness of that people depended, he was determined, as far as his interest could have any force, to support them. The matter in issue was, in fact, whether the constitution was or was not to be maintained; whether the wild ideas of theory were to conquer the wholesome maxims of established practice; and, whether those laws, under which we have flourished for such a series of years, were to be subverted by a reform unsanctioned by the people. As a person nearly and dearly interested in the welfare, and, he should emphatically add, the happiness and comfort, of the people, it would be treason to the principles of his mind, if he did not come forward and declare his disapprobation of those seditious publications which had occasioned the motion now before their lordships; and his interest was connected with the interest of the people; they were so inseparable, that, unless both parties concurred, happiness could not exist. On this great, on this solid basis, he grounded the vote which he meant to give, and that vote should unequivocally be for a concurrence with the Commons in the address they had resolved upon. His royal highness spoke in a manner that called not only for the attention, but the admiration of the house; and these words were remarkably energetic—"I exist by the love, the friendship, and the benevolence of the people; and their cause I will never forsake as long as I live." The prince then concluded by distinctly saying, "I give my most hearty assent to the motion for concurring in this wise and salutary address."



The year 1786 was distinguished by a circumstance in the history of the illustrious subject of these memoirs. The prince possessed a narrower income than former princes of Wales, and his royal highness was found at this period to have contracted a debt to the amount of between two and three hundred thousand pounds. In this situation he felt like a man of honour, and with a promptitude that did honour to his spirit as a man, resolved, in justice to his creditors, to immediately suppress the establishment of his household, to abridge himself of every superfluous expense, and to set apart a large annual sum, which was reckoned to be to the amount of 40,000*l*. Indeed he sold off his favourite stud of horses at Newmarket, his hunters, and even his coach horses, to satisfy the claims of his creditors. The interior decorations in Carlton House were also stopped.

No matter of great moment transpired in the life of his royal highness until his marriage in 1795. This marriage had been long determined upon before it was officially announced; and the princess Caroline Louisa, daughter of his late Serene Highness Charles William Ferdinand, duke of Brunswick Wolfenbuttle, and of her Royal Highness the Princess Augusta, sister to George III. was selected, it is said, by the king himself, to be the partner of his eldest son, and the future queen of Great Britain.

The British parliament granted a princely provision for the royal pair. Carlton House was superbly furnished for their reception, and it was stipulated, that the prince, on his marriage, should be exonerated from his debts; towards the liquidation of which, however, 25,000*l*. was to be deducted from 125,000*l*. per annum; his royal highness's annual income having been raised from 60,000*l*. to that magnificent sum. In addition to this, 26,000*l*. was voted for furnishing Carlton House, 27,000*l*. for the expenses of the marriage, and 28,000*l*. for jewels and plate.

His majesty's ship, *Juno*, of 50 guns, four frigates, two sloops of war, and two royal yachts, were appointed to escort the princess to the British shores; and the 8th of April, 1795, was the day appointed for the solemnization of the nuptials; which took place in the evening, in the Chapel Royal, at St. James's. The Archbishop of Canterbury officiated on the occasion; and the evening concluded with very splendid illuminations, and other public demonstrations of joy, throughout London and Westminster.

On the 7th of January, 1796, her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales was safely delivered of a princess, at Carlton House, and on the 11th of February following, in the evening, the royal infant was baptized and received the names Charlotte Augusta. Notwithstanding the general joy that prevailed throughout the nation on the birth of a princess, her parents, either from a dissimilarity of tastes and habits, or other causes, determined on a separation, and the princess had apartments assigned to her in Kensington Palace. Her royal highness subsequently purchased a house at Blackheath, and continued in England until the 9th of August, 1814, when the princess embarked at Worthing, in an English frigate, called the *Jason*, to return by way of Hamburg to Brunswick. For some years the princess resided in Italy, but on the death of the late monarch she returned to England in order to assert her rights and privileges as queen of Great Britain, and to challenge by public trial, an investigation of certain charges involving her moral character and conduct. On a subject of so much delicacy, (and what man or child from Land's End to John O'Groats, is ignorant of the circumstances relating to the late unfortunate queen?) we shall refrain from wearying our readers with comments of our own, and as we are anxious to give a detailed compilation of truisms, we shall adhere to dates and facts, to the utter neglect of our own opinions on the matter in question. To return to the illustrious subject of our memoir. Our attention is now called to that important event, the assumption of the regency of these realms, by his royal highness the prince of Wales, in consequence of the recurrence of his late majesty's alarming indisposition. In that important trust his royal highness continued until the death of his royal father, on January 29, 1820, when he succeeded to the throne of Great Britain, and was proclaimed the next day.

The marriage of his majesty's only daughter to prince Leopold, which was celebrated on the 2nd of May, 1816, at Carlton House, was regarded by the nation as a most propitious one. The attachment of the youthful couple was reciprocal, and in a political point of view the match was prophetic of much future good to the country, in the prospect of the accession of so amiable, noble-minded, and virtuous princess to the British throne. His majesty gave away the royal bride; and as soon as the ceremony was concluded, she embraced her royal parent. This circumstance has

been happily alluded to by the Rev. George Croly.

\* Proud was the marriage pageant, fair the bride,  
Who stood that evening by the altar's side;  
She blush'd not, sank not; native majesty  
Was living in her voice, and form, and eye.  
Yet in that stately form a spirit strove,  
As soft as ever woman gave to love;  
Er'n then it strove: the heart's high fealty  
Scarce pledg'd, still on the altar's steps her knee.  
Her nature rush'd upon her, her tears out-

sprang,  
She rose, and round her sire her white arms  
flung:

And met his press, fond, deeply, silently  
Pleasure may smile, but love and joy must sigh.\*

Immediately after the marriage congratulatory addresses poured in from all parts of the kingdom; but the happiness of the royal family, and the hopes of the nation, were early blasted by the untimely death of the princess Charlotte, which occurred on the 6th of November, 1817. During the time of her royal highness's confinement, she manifested the utmost firmness and resignation; and when informed that the child to which she had given birth was dead, she exclaimed, "It is the will of God; praise be to him in all things." Of this amiable and illustrious princess, most truly may we say—

"She was a pearl too pure on earth to dwell,  
And waste her splendour in this mortal shell."

In the year 1820, her late majesty, queen Caroline, returned to England, and in August was tried by the house of peers, and after a painful and harassing investigation was acquitted. On the 10th of July, 1821, the queen transmitted three memorials to his majesty, asserting her legal right to participate in the honours of the approaching coronation, and praying that the necessary arrangements should be taken. They were all referred by his majesty to the privy council, who, after hearing counsel at length on both sides, decided that as the queens consort of this realm are not entitled of right to be crowned at any time, her majesty was not entitled as of right to be crowned at the time specified in her majesty's memorials. The queen did not long survive this event; in the early part of August, she felt herself greatly indisposed in consequence of having taken a very large dose of magnesia, which was supposed to have created an obstruction in the bowels, which was followed by inflammatory symptoms. Her majesty's sufferings were excruciating, and she lingered until the 7th, when death relieved her from all pains, both mental and physical. Her remains were depo-

sited in the family vault of her illustrious house at Brunswick.

The coronation of George IV. took place at Westminster, on the 19th of July, 1821, and was celebrated with immense magnificence and splendour. On the 31st of August, his majesty embarked for Ireland, where he was received with enthusiastic welcomes by his Irish subjects; and on his return to England, after making a short stay, sailed from Ramsgate on the 24th of September for Hanover.

The following year, on the 10th of August, 1822, his majesty visited Scotland, where he was received with the warmest tokens of loyal affection and esteem, and having personally appeared amongst his faithful people of Ireland and the Land o' Cakes, we are convinced his subjects are bound to him by an additional tie, inasmuch as his majesty has increased claims on their recollection and regard.

We have introduced several anecdotes of his majesty in our memoir of the late duke of York, which closed our last volume, and as the death of that prince is the latest event which it is our duty to register in connexion with a history of his majesty's life, we beg to refer our readers to our last number of our last volume, and to the early numbers of this volume for information relating to the illness and death of the illustrious prince.

In conclusion we cannot but advert to the public character and popularity of England's monarch. His majesty has ever been a friend to the arts and sciences of Britain, and he has lately, with a view to the gratification and admiration of his subjects, submitted his fine collection of pictures to public exhibition.

To charitable institutions and societies for the relief of the distressed part of the community, his majesty has also been a munificent patron; and to the support of deserving individuals, we could draw up a lengthy catalogue, for which the moneys have been annually supplied from his majesty's private purse. As patron to the Literary Fund and numerous other magnificent institutions for the purpose of awarding merit to literary genius—to relieve the wants of indigent literary men—to succour the distressed and afflicted artist—to all these noble purposes has his majesty's benevolence been directed, and, from such causes, will his name be revered and held in the highest esteem by his trusty British subjects.

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